

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0536

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR CH US TW
SUBJ: TAIWAN UPRISING AND SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE ANNIVERSARIES

1. SUMMARY: THE PRC MARKED THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TAIWAN UPRISING ON FEBRUARY 28 WITH ITS USUAL "COMMEMORATIVE
MEETING" IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE AND THE
ALMOST TRADITIONAL SPEECH BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER
LIAO CHENG-CHIH ON PRC POLICY TOWARD THE TAIWAN QUESTION.
LIAO REPEATED THE "THREE PRINCIPLES" US MUST SEVER DIPLOMATIC REL-
ATIONS WITH TAIWAN, WITHDRAW US TROOPS AND ABROGATE THE DEFENSE
TREATY). HE ALSO UNDERScoreD THAT THE "LIBERATION OF
TAIWAN IS A MATTER WHICH BROOKS NO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE
WHATSOEVER," BUT STOPPED SHORT OF STATING THAT TAIWAN
WOULD OR MIGHT HAVE TO BE LIBERATED BY FORCE. AS FAR AS WE
ARE AWARE, THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE
HAS NOT BEEN NOTED BY THE PRC MEDIA. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRC LEADERSHIP CONTINUED ITS USUAL PRACTICE OF
MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN UPRISING BY HOLDING
A "COMMEMORATIVE MEETING" IN THE TAIWAN ROOM OF THE GREAT
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HALL OF THE PEOPLE ON FEBRUARY 28. THE MEETING WAS
ATTENDED BY POLITBURO MEMBERS ULANFU (CONCURRENTLY DIRECTOR
OF THE UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT) AND WU TEH, AND SOME
200 OTHER PRC LEADERS INCLUDING THE OUTSPOKEN TAIWANESE,
CHEN I-SUNG, RECENTLY CONFIRMED IN HIS POSITION AS A
STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S
CONGRESS. THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY RECEIVED SLIGHTLY LESS ATTENTION

BY THE PRC LEADERSHIP AND MEDIA: ONLY TWO POLITBURO MEMBERS ATTENDED THIS YEAR (THREE ATTENDED LAST YEAR), NO EDITORIALS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN, AND THE "COMMEMORATIVE MEETING" HAS BEEN LARGELY OVERSHADOWED BY THE ONGOING NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE.

3. LIAO'S SPEECH DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DEPART FROM PAST PRC STATEMENTS ABOUT SINO-US RELATIONS AND THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN. LIAO:

- DEMANDED THAT THE US SEVER RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, WITHDRAW ALL ITS TROOPS AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS FROM TAIWAN AND THE TAIWAN STRAITS, AND ABROGATE THE DEFENSE TREATY;
- REITERATED THAT THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN IS AN "INTERNAL AFFAIR OF OUR COUNTRY, AND WHEN AND HOW TO LIBERATE TAIWAN IS A MATTER WHICH BROOKS NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE WHATSOEVER."
- UNDERScoreD THE RECENT IMPHASIS ON A BROADER UNITED FRONT POLICY TOWARD WAIWAN COMPATRIOTS BY INVITING TAIWANESE TO COME TO THE MAIN-LAND TO "HAVE A LOOK" OR EVEN SETTLE DOWN.
- NOTED THAT LAST NOVEMBER'S CHUNGLI RIOTS AS THE "GREAT MANIFEST-ATION OF THE DISCONTENT AND HATRED" ON TAIWAN.
- EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR ENHANCING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE "TAIWANESE COMPATRIOTS" ABOUT THE "SOCIALIST MOTHERLAND".

LIAO DID NOT REPEAT THE FORMULA HE PRESENTED IN 1976 THAT THE PRC "PINS ITS HOPES ON THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN" IN LIBERATING THE ISLAND. WHILE LIAO ESCHEWED THE FORMULA THAT LIBERATION WOULD OR MIGHT HAVE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY FORCE, HE STATED THE "LIBER-CONFIDENTIAL

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ATION WILL SURELY BE CARRIED OUT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY CHAIRMAN HUA."

4. A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENCE FORMULA ON THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN WAS PRESENTED IN A SHORT ARTICLE ("PLACE HOPES IN THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE") BY LI CH'UN-CHING (TAIWAN DELEGATE TO CPPCC) IN THE FEBRUARY 27 KUANGMING DAILY (P. 2). LI STATED THAT THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN IS THE "GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY" OF THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE. THE "MOTHERLAND IS ACTIVELY MAKING FULL PREPARATIONS FOR THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN." THE ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONED THAT VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING "RECENTLY" POINTED OUT "PLACE HOPES IN THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE. THIS IS THE HIGHEST OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY AND STATE TOWARD THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY TRADITION, THIS IS THE GREATEST TRUST AND SUPPORT (WE CAN HAVE) FOR THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE* THIS IS AN HONORABLE DESTINY, (SHIH-MING). (WE) OUGHT TO TAKE THIS AND CHANGE IT INTO A SOURCE OF STRENGTH."

5. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THE PRC MEDIA HAS NOT MENTIONED THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. LAST YEAR, PRC MEDIA MADE PASSING MENTION OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

6. COMMENT: THE RECENT EMPHASIS ON UNITED FRONT WORK, OVERSEAS CHINESE POLICY, A "RECENT" YEH CHIEN-YING SPEECH MENTIONING THE TAIWAN PROBLEM, AND THE ATTENDANCE OF ULANFU, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S UNITED FRONT DEPARTMENT, AT THE COMMEMORATIVE MEETING SUGGEST THAT THE PRC LEADERSHIP MAY HAVE SLIGHTLY RE-EVALUATED ITS POSITION TOWARD THE TAIWAN PROBLEM. WHILE THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY PERCEPTIBLE CHANGE IN THE PRC POSITION, EVENTS OF THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS SUGGEST THAT THE PRC LEADERSHIP MAY HAVE DECIDED TO PURSUE A MORE ACTIVE UNITED FRONT CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AT TAIWAN.

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